

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical element comprises a fluorescence luminous element that emits fluorescent light when excited and a cholesteric filter disposed at the incident side of the fluorescence luminous element at which excitation light enters the fluorescence luminous element. The cholesteric filter comprises a cholesteric layer operative to transmit the excitation light and to reflect backward scattered fluorescent light traveling thereto so as to be integrated with fluorescent light directly coming out of the cholesteric filter.